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EDWARD EVERETT ON PEACE.

THE name of Mr. Everett, both as a Scholar and a Statesman, has of right so much weight and influence, that we cannot refrain from copying some incidental allusions in his Oration on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill : —

“It would be an unprofitable consumption of time to attempt to point out the innumerable ways, in which the union has auspiciously influenced the destinies of the country. There is, however, one view of this subject of so much importance, that I cannot forbear to present it more particularly to your consideration. Among the great ideas of the age, we are authorized in reckoning a growing sentiment in favor of peace. An impression is unquestionably gaining strength in the world, that public war is no less reproachful to our Christian civilization, than the private wars of the feudal chiefs in the middle ages. The hope of adjusting national controversies by some system of friendly arbitration, a hope which philanthropic minds have distrustfully cherished in other periods, has of late been avowed by men of a more practical class; by men conversant with the policy of the world, and fresh from its struggles.

The last year witnessed the assembling of a peace convention of a very imposing character at Paris; a similar one is about to be held at Frankfort-on-the-Maine. A congress of nations begins to be regarded as a practicable measure. Statesmen, and orators, and philanthropists, are flattering themselves that the countries of Europe, which have existed as independent sovereignties for a thousand years, and have never united in one movement since the crusades, may be brought into some community of action for this end. If, while these sanguine projects are pursued, — while we are thinking it worth while to compass sea and land in the expectation of bringing these jarring nationalities into some kind of union in order to put a stop to war; if, I say, at this juncture, the people of these thirty United States, most of which are of the average size of a European kingdom, — destined, if they remain a century longer at peace with each other, to equal in numbers the entire population of Europe, — States, which drawn together by a general identity of descent, language, and faith, have not so much formed as grown up into a national confederation; — possessing in its central legislature, executive, and judiciary, an efficient tribunal for the arbitration and decision of controversies; an actual Peace Congress, clothed with all the powers of a common Constitution and law, and with a jurisdiction extending to the individual citizen, (which this projected Congress of Nations does not even hope to exercise,) if, while we grasp at this shadow of a Congress of Nations, we let go of, nay, break up and scatter to the winds, this substantial union, this real Peace Congress, which for sixty years has kept the country, with all its conflicting elements, in a state of prosperity never before equalled in the world, we shall commit a folly for which the language we speak has no name; against which, if we, rational beings, should fail to protest, the dumb stones of yonder monument would immediately cry out in condemnation.”

We are glad to find such ideas current in such quarters. This reference to the pacific principles which form the basis and cement of our Union, just indicates the grand idea for which we have contended from the first, an idea not new, but as old as government, or civilized society, viz., that nations, all independent states or sovereignties, should settle their disputes, all their misunderstandings, as individuals do theirs, by amicable, rational

means, by due processes of law, by systems of mutual justice analogous to what we have provided for the settlement of all questions which may arise between the different states of our confederacy. We ask merely the extension of this principle and these provisions, with such modifications as the case may require, to the great brotherhood or commonwealth of nations.

ROBERT BURTON ON WAR.

What would Democritus, the laughing philosopher, have said, to see, hear, and read so many bloody battles, so many thousands slain at once, such streams of blood, able to turn mills, *unius ob noxam furiasque*,* or to make sport for princes, without any just cause, *for vain titles* (saith Austin), *precedency, some wench, or such like toy, or out of desire of domineering, vain glory, malice, revenge, folly, madness*, (goodly causes all, *ob quas universus orbis bellis et cædibus misceatur*), while statesmen themselves in the meantime are secure at home, pampered with all delights and pleasures, take their ease, and follow their lust, not considering what intolerable misery poor soldiers endure, their often wounds, hunger, thirst, &c.? The lamentable cares, torments, calamities, and oppressions, that accompany such proceedings, they feel not, take no notice of it. *So wars are begun, by the persuasion of debauched, hair-brained, poor, dissolute, hungry captains, parasitical fawners, unquiet hotspurs, restless innovators, green heads, to satisfy one man's private spleen, lust, ambition, avarice, &c., "tales rapiunt scelerata in prælia causæ."* *Flos hominum*, proper men, well proportioned, carefully brought up, able both in body and mind, sound, led like so many beasts to the slaughter in the flower of their years, pride, and full of strength, without all remorse and pity sacrificed to Pluto, killed up as so many sheep, for devils' food, 40,000 at once! At once, said I? — that were tolerable; but these wars last always, and for many ages — nothing so familiar as this hacking and hewing, massacres, murders, desolations —

("—— ignoto cælum clangore remugit;")

they care not what mischief they procure, so that they may enrich themselves for the present; they will so long blow the coals of contention, till all the world be consumed with fire.

The siege of Troy lasted ten years, eight months; there died 870,000 Grecians, 670,000 Trojans; at the taking of the city, and after, were slain 276,000 men, women, and children, of all sorts. Cæsar killed a million, Mahomet, the Second Turk, 300,000 persons; Sicinius Dentatus fought in a hundred battles; eight times in single combat he overcame, had forty wounds before, was rewarded with 140 crowns, triumphed nine times for his good service. M Sergius had 32 wounds; Scæva, the centurion, I know not how many; every nation hath their Hector, Scipios, Cæsars and Alexanders. Our Edward the Fourth was in 26 battles afoot; and, as they do all, he glories in it; 'tis related to his honor. At the siege of Hierusalem, 1,100,000 died with sword and famine. At the battle of Carmas, 70,000 men were slain, as Polybius records, and as many at Battel Abbye with us; and 'tis no news to fight from sun to sun, as they did, as Constantine and Licinus, &c. At the siege of Ostend, (the devil's academy,) a poor town in respect, a small fort, but a great grave, 120,000 men lost their

* The Latin quotations are generally followed by a translation.